Act, 1995 whereby Orissa Regulatory commission is being set up. As a part of the restructuring exercise, the functions of SEB are sought to be unbundled and separate Corporations set up for different aspects. Orissa Hydro Power Corporation has been set up to handle construction and maintenance of hydel power stations and Gridco to handle transmission and supply of electricity in place of OSEB. Distribution is to be privatised gradually. Action in other States will be initiated by the respective Governments after taking into account various relevant factors including the findings of the diagnostic studies.

Decline in export of Garments

1282. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in the garment exports compared to the neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to increase the export of garments?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In order to step up the exports of garment, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

Small Savings Schemes

1283. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to promote small savings schemes in the small and Medium towns and also in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction during the last three years; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): (a) Small savings schemes are operated through post offices and the nationalised banks spread throughout the country. Promotion of these schemes in the country including small and medium towns and in rural areas is given due importance by the Central Government and State Governments.

(b) and (c) The small savings schemes are under constant review. The steps to encourage more deposits include attractive returns, extension of tax concessions, publicity, etc. Apart from Central Government, wide publicity of these schemes is also undertaking by the State Governments and extension agencies like Standardised Agency Systems (SAS), PPF agents and Mahila, Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojana (MPKBY) agents. Publicity media include radio, TV, newspapers hoardings, banners, posters, pamphlets, film shows, various incentive schemes, etc. The Collections during the last three years show an appreciable increase. They were Rs. 19374, Rs. 27292, Rs. 37491 crores in 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 respectively.

Exemption of tax on external commercial borrowings

1284. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision under Income-Tax Act, 1961 for granting exemption of tax payable on interest paid on External Commercial Borrowings; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether such exemptions are being granted on F.O.B. values of imports and not on the CIF value of imports;

(c) if so, whether suppliers' quotations in terms of CIF values are covered under external commercial borrowing; and

(d) if not, whether Government are contemplating to issue the requisite clarification that the exemption is applicable on C.I.F. value of imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Under the provisions of Section 10(15) (iv) (c) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 interest payable by an industrial undertaking on any moneys borrowed or debt incurred in a foreign country in respect of the purchase outside India of raw-materials or components or capital plant and machinery, is exempt from income-tax to the extent to which such interest does not exceed the amount of interest calculated at the rate approved by the Central Government, having regard to the terms of the loan or debt and its repayment. Consequently, the exemption is allowable only on the purchase value of the imports and does not cover freight or insurance, irrespective of the manner in which the supplies are quoted. There is no proposal to issue any clarification in this regard.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में बैंकों की नई शाखाएं खोलना

1285. श्री महेश्वर सिंह: क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) हिमाचल प्रदेश में किन-किन स्थानों पर जन प्रतिनिधियों द्वारा बैंकों की नई शाखाएं खोलने की मांग की गई है;

(ख) क्या कुल्लू जिले के वजौरा तथा सुलतानपुर में भी बैंक शाखाएं खोलने हेतु कोई सर्वेक्षण किया गया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो कौन-कौन से बैंक द्वारा कब-कब ऐसा किया गया है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० देबी प्रसाद पाल): (क) से (ग) हिमाचल प्रदेश का संयोजक बैंक यूको बैंक और कुल्लू जिले का अग्रणी बैंक पंजाब नेशनल बैंक, ने सूचित किया है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश में बैंक शाखाएं खोलने हेतु निम्नलिखित केन्द्रों के लिए अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं:—

क्रम सं०	केन्द्र का नाम
1.	नदौन, जिला हमीरपुर
2.	भोरंज, जिला हमीरपुर
3.	बिझारी, जिला हमीरपुर
4.	सलहोती, जिला कांगड़ा
5.	जसवां, जिला कांगड़ा
6.	लाड्डा, जिला बिलासपुर
7.	घंगोट, जिला हमीरपुर
8.	सरथवाड़, जिला मंडी
9.	अंब, जिला ऊना
10.	बंगाना, जिला ऊना
11.	देहरा, जिला कांगड़ा
12.	मरातन, जिला बिलासपुर
13.	जोगिन्दर नगर, जिला मंडी

पंजाब नेशनल बैंक ने सूचित किया है कि उन्होंने क्रमशः सितम्बर, 1995 और अक्तूबर, 1995 में कुल्लू जिले में वजावरा और सुल्तानपुर का सर्वेक्षण किया है।

गुजरात राज्य विद्युत बोर्ड द्वारा विद्युत परियोजनाओं की स्थापना हेतु समझौता

1286. श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल: क्या वित्त मंत्री 28 नवम्बर, 1995 और 27 फरवरी, 1996 को राज्य सभा में क्रमशः अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 133 और 15 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि गुजरात राज्य विद्युत बोर्ड द्वारा राज्य में विद्युत परियोजनाओं की स्थापना हेतु आज तक गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र के साथ कितने समझौते किए गए हैं?

विद्युत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती उर्मिला चिमनभाई पटेल): गुजरात राज्य बिजली बोर्ड ने सूचित किया है कि उन्होंने अब तक भरूच जिले में पगुथान गांव में स्थापित किए जाने वाले 654 मे०वा० के गैस आधारित विद्युत केन्द्र के संबन्ध में मै० गुजरात टोरेंट एनर्जी कारपोरेशन लि० के साथ दिनांक 3.2.1994 को एक विद्युत क्रय करार (पीपीए) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं।